नागरिक आपूर्ति और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) और (ख) सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिए वितरण हेतु राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों की आवश्यक वस्तुओं का आबंटन आमतौर पर राज्यों की मांग, केंद्रीय पूल में उपलब्ध भंडार की स्थिति, राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों की आपसी आवश्यकता, मौसम जन्य कारक आदि जैसी बातों को ध्यान में रख कर किया जाता है । चावल, गेहूं और आयातित-खाद्य तेलों के मामले में आबंटन जनसंख्या के आधार पर नहीं किए जाते हैं । सार्वजनिक वितरण प्रणाली के जरिए किए गए आबंटन केवल अनुपूरक स्वरूप के होते हैं और उनका उद्देश्य राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों की समूची मांग को पूरा करना नहीं होता ।

तथापि, लेवी चीनी का आबंटन 1-10-86 को अनुमानित जनसंख्या के लिए 425 ग्राम प्रति व्यक्ति प्रतिमाह उपलभ्यता के एक समान मापदण्ड के आधार पर किया जाता है । राज्यों/संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों को अगस्त, 1991 से सितम्बर, 1992 तक के लिए लेवी चीनी के आबंटन में 5% की तदर्थ वृद्धि करने की अनुमति दी गई है ।

व्यापारियों की मांगें

4626. **श्री अनन्तराम जायसवाल** : क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि फेडरेशन ऑफ आल इंडिया फूड ग्रेन एसोसिएशन के आह्वान पर 28-7-92 को देश भर से आये हुए व्यापारियों के प्रतिनिधिमण्डल ने प्रधानमंत्री को ज्ञापन दिया था ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है और उस पर क्या कार्यवाही की गयी है ?

नागरिक आपूर्ति और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमालुद्दीन अहमद) : (क) और (ख) प्रधान मंत्री को तथा इस मंत्रालय को फैडनेशन ऑफ आल इंडिया फूडग्रेन्स डीलर्स एसोसिएशन्स सहित व्यापारियों की एसोसिएशनों से अनेक अभ्यावेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं । मूल रूप से आपत्ति आवश्यक वस्तुएं (विशेष उपबंध) अधिनियम, 1981 को 31-8-1992 के बाद, जबकि उसकी वैधता की अवधि समाप्त हो जाती है, आगे बढ़ाने के बारे में उठाई गई है । यह मामला सरकार के विचाराधीन है ।

Extension of Essential Commodities Act

4627. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what were the demands made by the traders on the extension of Essential Commodities Act after its expiry date; and

(b) what are the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Traders' Organisations have represented to Government that the validity of the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 should not be extended after its validity expires on 31.8.92. The following are the main points generally made as arguments against the continuation of the Special provisions:—

(a) Non-bailable nature of offences leads to harassment and bail is not granted even for minor offences.

(b) Mandatory punishment of minimum of 3 months.

(c) Appeal against order of confiscation to State Government and not a judicial authority.

(d) Summary trial in special courts.

(e) Supply and production scenarious have now changed.

(f) Seizure of all items rather than only those items in respect of which contravention of the Act has occurred.

The matter regarding further extension of the term of Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act, 1981 is presently under consideration of the Government.

Dissemination of consumer education

4628. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to sate:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the intensive campaign to make consumers aware of their rights and to spread consumer education among the masses in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government propose to encourage consumer organisations in the country for their active indulgence in building consumer awareness among the masses;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to render financial assistance and grants to such consumer organisations;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether it is also a fact that Government propose to make use of Doordarshan and All India Radio for the consumer awareness in the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Some of the steps taken by Government to promote a strong and broad-based consumer movement in the country are:

(i) grant of financial assistance to consumer organisations;

(ii) publication and free distribution of literature in the field of consumer protection;

(iii) publication of quarterly journal Upabhokta Jagaran' and its free distribution to libraries and consumer organisations etc.;

(iv) preparation of audio visual material in consultation with Films Division of India and DAVP and its telecast on Doordarshan;

(v) institution of two national awards for the youths and consumer organisations working in the field of consumer protection;

(vi) conducting of training programmes for consumer organisations on regional basis; and

(vii) observance of Consumer Day on 15th March every year.

(e) and (f) Doordarshan telecasts a regular programme entitled 'Sanrakshan Upabhokta Ka' from Delhi Kendra on every Monday at 7.30 p.m. A weekly programme 'Apne Adhikar' is broadcast on all the commercial broadcasting stations of AIR. Besides various programmes are being telecast in Women's Programmes Programme for Rural Viewers, 'Jan Chetna' etc. on consumer education. Audio visual spots/captions on consumer education are also shown frequently.

Quota of edible oils and sugar to Bihar

4629. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bihar is being issued less quota of edible oils and sugar in comparison with